

Breaking the Poverty Expectation

Dr. John Carmichael

[Jhn 12:6 NASB95] 6 Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to pilfer what was put into it.

[Jhn 13:29 NASB95] 29 For some were supposing, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus was saying to him, "Buy the things we have need of for the feast"; or else, that he should give something to the poor.

- Do people steal from poor people? If the poor person is stolen from, do they have money left over to give to others or to pay for the meals for more than twelve people?
- Now, look at [2Co 8:7-10 NASB95] 7 But just as you abound in everything, in faith and utterance and knowledge and in all earnestness and in the love we inspired in you, [see] that you abound in this gracious work also. 8 I am not speaking [this] as a command, but as proving through the earnestness of others the sincerity of your love also. 9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich. 10 I give [my] opinion in this matter, for this is to your advantage, who were the first to begin a year ago not only to do [this,] but also to desire [to do it.]
- Jesus was not poor before going to the cross.
- Notice when he became poor. [Jhn 19:23-24 NASB95] 23 Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His outer garments and made four parts, a part to every soldier and [also] the tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece. 24 So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, [to decide] whose it shall be"; [this was] to fulfill the Scripture: "THEY DIVIDED MY OUTER GARMENTS AMONG THEM, AND FOR MY CLOTHING THEY CAST LOTS."
- Do people cast lots and become concerned over who gets the clothes of poor people?
- One of the arguments against prosperity is the life of Jesus and their supposition of Him being poor.
- Before the crucifixion, John paints a picture of Jesus not being poor but quite the contrary. However, Paul said He became poor, so we might become rich.
- Therefore, we do not have live with an expectation of poverty.

What can do to break the expectation of poverty?

Here are four principles of breaking the expectation of poverty.

I. Ask God for prosperity.

- a. This is a very specific prayer. [Psa 118:25 NASB95] 25 O LORD, do save, we beseech You; O LORD, we beseech You, do send prosperity!
- b. Jesus taught us to pray for material needs. He taught more than for today but continual supply. See also NRSV notes (our bread for tomorrow.) (NET Bible notes: "Give us bread today for the coming day,") [Mat 6:11 NASB95] 11 'Give us this day our daily bread.
- c. Uzziah's prosperity was directly tied to his seeking after God. [2Ch 26:5 NASB95] 5 He continued to seek God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding through the vision of God; and as long as he sought the LORD, God prospered him.
- d. As you seek God, ask God specifically for your material needs to be met.

II. Understand practical issues.

- a. Work.

Breaking the Poverty Expectation

Dr. John Carmichael

- i. Supernatural prosperity will involve your participation.
 - ii. God prospered Jacob. Yet, in his prosperity, he worked hard. [Gen 31:36-42 NASB95] 36 Then Jacob became angry and contended with Laban; and Jacob said to Laban, "What is my transgression? What is my sin that you have hotly pursued me? 37 "Though you have felt through all my goods, what have you found of all your household goods? Set [it] here before my kinsmen and your kinsmen, that they may decide between us two. 38 "These twenty years I [have been] with you; your ewes and your female goats have not miscarried, nor have I eaten the rams of your flocks. 39 "That which was torn [of beasts] I did not bring to you; I bore the loss of it myself. You required it of my hand [whether] stolen by day or stolen by night. 40 "[Thus] I was: by day the heat consumed me and the frost by night, and my sleep fled from my eyes. 41 "These twenty years I have been in your house; I served you fourteen years for your two daughters and six years for your flock, and you changed my wages ten times. 42 "If the God of my father, the God of Abraham, and the fear of Isaac, had not been for me, surely now you would have sent me away empty-handed. God has seen my affliction and the toil of my hands, so He rendered judgment last night."
 - iii. God does not deal kindly of people who do not work. [2Th 3:10 NASB95] 10 For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.
 - iv. Find your assignment. Work. Work hard.
- b. Wisdom.**
- i. There are practical wisdom issues that must be applied.
 - ii. Joseph had a supernatural plan that was wise to overcome the upcoming famine. [Gen 41:35-36 NASB95] 35 "Then let them gather all the food of these good years that are coming, and store up the grain for food in the cities under Pharaoh's authority, and let them guard [it.] 36 "Let the food become as a reserve for the land for the seven years of famine which will occur in the land of Egypt, so that the land will not perish during the famine."
 - iii. Same as in Joseph. [Act 11:27-29 NASB95] 27 Now at this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 One of them named Agabus stood up and [began] to indicate by the Spirit that there would certainly be a great famine all over the world. And this took place in the [reign] of Claudius. 29 And in the proportion that any of the disciples had means, each of them determined to send [a contribution] for the relief of the brethren living in Judea.
 - iv. One of the reasons for poverty is unwise decisions. Not saving. Poor spending habits. Decide to underspend. In faith, save your money.

III. Honor God with your giving.

- a. Your giving life connects your God's prosperity.
- b. [Mal 3:10-11 NASB95] 10 "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows. 11 "Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast [its grapes,]" says the LORD of hosts.
- c. [Pro 3:9-10 NASB95] 9 Honor the LORD from your wealth And from the first of all your produce; 10 So your barns will be filled with plenty And your vats will overflow with new wine.
- d. [Hag 1:4-11 NASB95] 4 "Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses while this house [lies] desolate?" 5 Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts,

Breaking the Poverty Expectation

Dr. John Carmichael

"Consider your ways! 6 "You have sown much, but harvest little; [you] eat, but [there is] not [enough] to be satisfied; [you] drink, but [there is] not [enough] to become drunk; [you] put on clothing, but no one is warm [enough;] and he who earns, earns wages [to put] into a purse with holes." 7 Thus says the LORD of hosts, "Consider your ways! 8 "Go up to the mountains, bring wood and rebuild the temple, that I may be pleased with it and be glorified," says the LORD. 9 "[You] look for much, but behold, [it comes] to little; when you bring [it] home, I blow it [away.] Why?" declares the LORD of hosts, "Because of My house which [lies] desolate, while each of you runs to his own house. 10 "Therefore, because of you the sky has withheld its dew and the earth has withheld its produce. 11 "I called for a drought on the land, on the mountains, on the grain, on the new wine, on the oil, on what the ground produces, on men, on cattle, and on all the labor of your hands."

- e. People who do not give do not qualify for God's supernatural help. People who honor the Lord with their finances can expect God to bring increase to their lives.

IV. Practice faith principles.

- a. Like everything else, in the faith principles need to be applied.
- b. Sowing word seed. [Mar 4:14 NASB95] 14 "The sower sows the word.
- c. Speaking your faith. [Psa 35:27 NASB95] 27 Let them shout for joy and rejoice, who favor my vindication; And let them say continually, "The LORD be magnified, Who delights in the prosperity of His servant."
- d. See yourself with the provision. [Mat 21:22 NASB95] 22 "And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."
- e. Stand against the devil. [Eph 6:11-12 NASB95] 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual [forces] of wickedness in the heavenly [places.]
- f. Practice faith principles.

- **God wants us to expect to live with supernatural provision and prosperity, not with an expectation of poverty and lack.**